

CITY PIER LEASE IS ASSAILED AS TAMMANY PRIZE

Ship Men Had No Chance to Bid Against Hagan, Is Complaint.

WOULD OFFER \$75,000

Investigation May Follow Letting of Valuable Dock for Only \$14,000.

The lease by the Sinking Fund Commission of a city pier at the foot of East Fourth street to a firm of stevedores, in which Hagan, son of a Tammany leader, is a partner, was assailed yesterday from two quarters. The award of this prize to Tammany men at less than half the city could have obtained in the open market from steamship companies is to be investigated, with the probability that a court action will be started to break the lease.

Mayor Hylan, who voted against giving the contract to the firm of Carroll, Hagan & Carroll, sent for his papers and began an inquiry of his own. The Atlantic Fruit Company of 61 Broadway referred the matter to lawyers as a first step in testing the legality of the action taken by the Sinking Fund Commission.

It developed that Carroll, Hagan and Carroll entered into their partnership on June 19, at which time they obtained leaders in this city, and that they incorporated under the State law on June 22, two days before they obtained the lease from the city. Thomas P. Murphy, senior member of the most successful stevedores in the city, is a close friend of James J. Hagan, the Tammany leader of the Seventh Assembly District, and in turn a close personal friend of Charles F. Murphy, the Tammany chief. Young Hagan, the partner in the firm, is about 24 years old.

Wanted Chance to Bid.
Officials in the Atlantic Fruit Company stated they considered \$50,000 would be a fair sum to pay in annual rental for the pier. They did not make an offer for the reason that they had no opportunity, the steamship officials stated. The price placed by the Sinking Fund Commission to the Hagan firm is \$14,000 a year, plus 7 1/2 per cent. of the cost of putting the pier in repair. This covers a period of ten years with renewal prospects, bringing it, it is estimated, the revenue the city will get to about \$25,000 a year.

A. Frankel, president of the French American Line, at 18 Broadway, said his company would have been glad to pay "very substantially more" for the pier, but that the lease was not offered at public bidding. Knowing the needs of the steamship companies for docking facilities, and pointing out the necessity of getting more food to the city, he said it was astonishing that such action should have been taken. He would favor taking any step to break the lease, he said.

Nor has Mr. La Guardia, although a member of the commission which made the award, been able to find out why the pier lease was not on the regular calendar at the meeting of the commission. This was all the more surprising, he explained, as the disposal of this pier has been discussed by city officials for three months, and both he and the Mayor had taken unqualified stands against making any lease with a stevedore company unless it was established that no regular steamship company engaged in transporting foodstuffs, cared to bid for the property.

"I kept this pier lease in committee for three months, knowing an attempt was being made to get it," said Mr. La Guardia. "I am sure that if I had known of this, I would have taken it up at once." The Commission's decision was made on June 19, at which time the Mayor had taken unqualified stands against making any lease with a stevedore company unless it was established that no regular steamship company engaged in transporting foodstuffs, cared to bid for the property.

Willing to Pay \$75,000.
The policy laid down by the Mayor last March, just after there had been a great furor about the pier lease, which was upet in court, was that American steamship companies should have first bid for city piers, and companies flying foreign flags, but actively engaged in the food and fruit business, second place. The next alternative was to keep piers open for all, and as a last recourse, that "day-by-night stevedore companies" might have leases.

Although this was the policy of the city, steamship companies generally did not have an opportunity to bid for the pier at the foot of East Fourth street. Of the companies which learned of the possibility of obtaining the lease, the Northern Steamship Company of 17 Battery place offered \$12,514 for a ten year lease, plus the 7 1/2 per cent. reconstruction cost. The French American Line made an offer of 70 cents a square foot, but indicated they would like to enter a bid, and the Atlantic Fruit Company did not even get as far as submitting figures because no opportunity was presented.

At the office of the Atlantic Fruit Company the secretary to the president stated that it was regarded as doubtful whether such a lease as that given to the Hagan firm could stand. The lawyers of the company have instructions to find out what action can be taken, and it was stated "something would be heard from it in a few days."

Mr. Frankel of the French American line, said officials of that company had been assured they would have an opportunity to bid for a lease on Pier 72, foot of East Twenty-fourth street, when the tenancy thereon expired on April 30. No opportunity was presented, he said, although the company stood ready to pay \$75,000 for the lease. He said that Hagan had come to the firm from the Northern Steamship Company of rental for that pier at \$300 a day.

The only explanation offered for giving such a lease for the East Fourth street pier was that the pier is only 351 feet in length, which makes it available only for the small coastwise steamers. The longer piers bring much larger revenue.

Hulbert Didn't O. K. Plan.
Murray Hulbert, Commissioner of Docks and Ferries, said the cost of reconstructing the pier would be about \$125,000, and that the \$14,000 rent, plus the 7 1/2 per cent. charge for each year would give the city an income of about \$25,000. That is as much, he said, as

ELWELL SHADOWER SOUGHT IN INQUIRY

Chauffeur's Story of Tall Man in Street Clothes Gives New Impulse.

SET OF KEYS IS FOUND.

Dooling in All Day Study of Evidence—Whaley Letter Explained.

New developments yesterday in the search for the slayer of Joseph Bowne Elwell caused both the District Attorney's office and the Police Department to centre their attention upon one man who was known to the dead car expert and who, it is understood, had been questioned at least once since the occurrence of the tragedy.

Exactly what has occurred to throw suspicion upon this man is a matter which none of the officials will disclose, but it is believed that they have received some information of importance within the last forty-eight hours, possibly during their questioning of Mrs. Marie Larssen, Elwell's housekeeper, on Thursday.

Several of the best detectives at Police Headquarters are known to have been busy from early yesterday morning until far into the night in checking up on this newly acquired information. The matter also is believed to have been the subject of a talk late in the evening at the Criminal Courts Building between John T. Dooling, Assistant District Attorney and Lieut. George Wusby of the homicide squad, who has been working upon the case with Capt. Arthur Carey.

Set of House Keys Found.
In connection with this new phase of the case it was learned that the police have had in their possession since the day on which the crime was discovered a set of house keys that were not the pair Elwell carried, and that they were found upon the premises after the discovery of the turfdam's body.

It is the theory of some of the detectives working upon the case that these keys were left in the house at 244 West Seventieth street by a visitor who called early on the morning of Elwell's death. Their presence there gives particular significance to the story of Edgar Walters, negro taxicab chauffeur, who took a man whose description does not tally with that of Elwell to the house at about 2 o'clock on the morning of the murder.

The officials did not attach so much importance to the story of Walters on Thursday because of the fact that he had looked at several pictures of Elwell and had said that he believed that he was the man that he had taken to the house.

When shown another picture, however, of a man who was known to Elwell, the chauffeur appeared to be quite unable to decide which one bore the strongest resemblance to his passenger. In fact, all that he could remember about him was that he was "tall, slim and clean-shaven," which description might fit either Elwell himself or any number of the turfdam's acquaintances.

Was Uncertain of Address.
The details of the chauffeur's story which indicate that the man was not Elwell are the fact that he was not in evening clothes, that he carried no newspaper and that the chauffeur is positive that upon entering his taxicab this man had written the address 304 West Seventieth street, which he corrected upon arrival by saying, "I want the house two doors below the big apartment."

In addition to this it was stated at the District Attorney's office that the chauffeur had said that on arrival before the Elwell home his passenger had not waited for the taxicab to stop, but had paid him through the window, and had then taken the door and jumped out while the taxicab was still in motion, making off toward the house in great haste.

The general impression which this negro chauffeur made upon the officials is that he is a man of good character, well to do in a clear, intelligent manner, and that he seemed quite positive regarding the details that he furnished. He is not an ordinary taxicab chauffeur, but owns and operates his own car, and he is remembered because of the fact that it was his last trip that night, and he read of the tragedy early the following day.

House Dark, Says Walters.
As Walters says that the house was dark, it is possible that Elwell had not yet returned home, and that his passenger admitted himself to the house with the keys which the police later discovered. This theory is strengthened by the fact that the keys were not Elwell's, and by the fact that his keys were found in the house.

With the announcement of the discovery of these keys the motive behind much of the questioning of Mrs. Larssen

STATEN ISLAND LINES LOSE FRANCHISES

Board of Estimate Receives Delegation Protesting Lack of Service.

The answer of the Board of Estimate to several hundred residents of Staten Island who appeared yesterday urging relief from intolerable transportation conditions was to revoke ten of the franchises of the Midland Railway Company. The company had ceased to operate trolley cars for service on those lines on the ground that the return at a five cent fare is not sufficient to pay expenses.

Mayor Hylan, several of whose Staten Island bus lines, with which his administration is fighting the trolley lines, have been shut down by injunction, expressed himself as follows upon the subject of increased fares:

"If it is a case of going to jail, I'll go to jail rather than vote for an increased fare. My main point is to settle this at once and to act for the people of the city if I'm allowed my liberty in the meanwhile. We have no control over the receivers for the lines. They represent the United States court and we can't interfere with them."

Long before the board convened the corridors outside the chamber were crowded with Staten Islanders, most of them women, who had come to protest against lack of travelling facilities. The carried banners bearing such inscriptions as:

"Children out of school since January. No trolleys."
"Give us a square deal; cut the red tape."
"Costs more to reach work. No trolleys."
"Children crying for beaches. No trolleys."
"We have endured this outrage five months. No trolleys."

When the Mayor entered the chamber he was greeted by a loud clapping of hands and flashing of placards. He was visibly angered by the demonstration, and when he had rapped for order, said:

"We will begin proceedings by eliminating these banners right now. We will eliminate them at once." The banners dropped out of sight.

The Mayor then read a communication which stated that James F. Graham of Brooklyn, who is a promoter of real estate in Staten Island, had organized a body of 500 women to appear at the Board of Estimate meeting and protest against the stopping of the Midland trolley lines.

Immediately thereafter F. H. La Guardia, President of the Board of Aldermen, entered the room amid an outbreak of applause, and the Mayor took precautions to protect the meeting against disorder.

"There must be order here to-day," he said. "If any disorders occur I shall call upon some of the uniformed men in the rear of the hall to restore quiet. Let that be understood."

The Staten Islanders sat through the meeting, and at the end of the calendar Calvin D. Van Name, their Borough President, asked the Mayor to give them a hearing. Various stories of hardships were told, and Mrs. Edward Wiley, wife of a practicing physician of Staten Island, said that while the women of Staten Island are reluctant to pay a higher fare they would prefer paying eight cents to being compelled to walk. The Mayor then delivered himself of his views upon increased fares, and the meeting adjourned.

The revocation of Midland franchises was pursuant to ninety days' notice served upon the road when it suspended operation that unless it complied with all requirements of the franchises they would be revoked. The action was taken when the road had failed to pay to the city any part of its gross receipts or to submit a sworn statement of operation.

DRY RAIDER TO QUIT IF SHORN OF POWER

Shewlin Goes to Washington to Learn Why Police Here Dispute His Authority.

James Shewlin, chief prohibition enforcement agent for the New York district, went to Washington yesterday to learn from Prohibition Commissioner Kramer why his authority has been disputed by the New York Police Department. The trouble developed out of the recent seizure of 100 cases of Brandy, rum at Hollis, L. I., which the police refused to turn over to Mr. Shewlin's agents. A court order was finally obtained by Leroy W. Ross placing the liquor in the custody of the United States Marshal.

"I will not be interfered with in the discharge of my duty," said Mr. Shewlin. "I intend to conduct prohibition matters in Brooklyn the same way that I do in Manhattan. I will either conduct the affairs of my office in my own way or I'll get out altogether."

Mr. Shewlin had already announced the consolidation of the Manhattan and Brooklyn enforcement offices, and as a result seventy agents left New York yesterday for Albany, Syracuse and Buffalo, where they will operate in the future. Mr. Shewlin announced also that from now on the various law departments of the municipal, Federal and county departments where arrests are made will take up the work of prosecuting the cases. Heretofore the work has been hampered because the smaller law enforcing departments throughout the State were not properly authorized to prosecute liquor cases.

Investigation of the Bacardi Company's distribution of rum among its stockholders after the dissolution of the corporation, which was decided after the seizure at Hollis, will be continued before the Federal Grand Jury in Brooklyn next Wednesday. Meanwhile, Leroy W. Ross, United States District Attorney, at whose instigation the inquiry was called, will question the stockholders.

It was learned yesterday that when the Federal Grand Jury conducts its inquiry next week there may be indictments forthcoming in connection with the enforcement of prohibition in this district.

BOOK MEN PLEDGE \$60,000.
Publishing Firms Get Back of "Books for Everybody" Drive.

Twenty book publishing firms decided yesterday to boost the "Books for Everybody" campaign of the American Library Association, and accepted their quota of \$60,000 out of the \$260,000 to be raised in this city.

The decision was taken at a luncheon in the Yale Club, at which Frederick A. Stokes presided. A committee to solicit the publishers of the city was formed of William B. Hixley of Funk & Wagnalls, George L. Wheelock of The Century Company, and L. W. Sanders of D. Appleton & Co. The campaign is to extend through to July.

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WAR VETERAN SLAIN BY BROOKLYN THUGS

Shot While Fleeing From Group of Rowdies.

Thomas Gayer, 31 years old, a mechanic in the New York Navy Yard and veteran of the Seventy-seventh Division, was shot and killed last night at 767 Union street, Brooklyn, when he attempted to get from the rooming house some clothing left there six weeks ago by his brother, James, a pugilist known as "Bobby Gair."

The proprietress of the house, a Mrs. Deiduco, declined to get the clothing, saying the rent had not been paid. Edward Bernard Dowd said Gayer threatened to call a policeman and left the house. The woman screamed, attracting a group of five men standing in front of the house. Dowd learned the men told Gayer they would "do him up" and that when the mechanic ran because of their superior numbers one of the men jerked out a revolver and began shooting. A bullet pierced Gayer's lungs.

Three men were taken to Bergen street station last night for investigation, but they were not arrested. Gayer lived with his wife and two children at 27 Dixon place. Before joining the Seventy-seventh Division he had served two enlistments in the navy. He was gassed overseas.

SURGEON CONVICTED OF CAUSING DEATH.
Dr. Hammer Had Operated on Woman Patient.

A verdict of guilty of manslaughter in the first degree was found early this morning against Dr. Julius Hammer, the surgeon who has been on trial before Judge Louis D. Gibbs and a jury in the Bronx County Court on an indictment charging him with performing a criminal operation that caused the death of a woman patient. The jury reached the verdict after four and a half hours deliberation. Judge Gibbs announced that sentence would be pronounced next Wednesday.

The doctor's attorneys said they would reserve until that time any motions they may decide to make. Manslaughter in the first degree carries a sentence of not less than ten nor more than twenty years imprisonment. Dr. Hammer was 45 years old and his address was 1488 Washington avenue, The Bronx. He was locked up in the Bronx County Jail.

As a sequel to the trial there is to be an investigation of the charge made by Joseph L. Maher of 1160 Forest avenue, one of the jurors, that an attempt was made to bribe him.

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HERE'S more "Happiness" for New York—this time in the heart of the great shopping district centering on Herald Square.

A new United Candy Store opens today on the West Side of Broadway—No. 1343, between 35th and 36th Streets. This store is most conveniently located for the thousands who daily visit the big department stores in the Herald Square section, and for the Long Island and Jersey dwellers who commute by way

of the Pennsylvania Station and the Hudson Tubes.

Come in and pay this new store a visit. You will find it a worthy companion of "The World's Largest Candy Store" on West 42nd St., of our beautiful "Jewel Box" downtown in the Hudson Terminal Bldg., and of our "First Uptown Store" at Broadway and 80th St. We promise you a hearty welcome and pleasant service—and, of course, the usual delightful selection of United Candies.

Special Today to Celebrate the opening of the new store we are offering the following five candies at a Special price for today (Saturday). All Stores.

BUTTERSCOTCH CARAMELS—Just pure cane sugar, the creamiest dairy butter, and a little flavoring. And yet, when these ingredients are combined by our candy chefs, the result is a Butterscotch Candy that will give you a new idea of **49c** how good such candy can be.

MILK CHOCOLATE COCONUT ROYALS—Fresh shredded San Blas coconuts, the finest in the world, are used for these candies. When this coconut is combined with delicious sugar cream and covered with milk chocolate it is a confection that will delight the taste of all. **69c**

SPARKLING MIXED—Buttercups, Twists, Satinets, Fruit Rock, Lemon Drops and Lime Drops. Wholesome and delicious hard candies made from pure cane sugar and fruit juices. **49c**. Packed in a beautifully decorated tin.

2-LB. WEEK-END SELECTION—Containing Marshmallows, Fudge, Almond Apricot Mallow, Assorted Fruit Jellies, Mexican Delights, Assorted Bonbons, Almond Nougat Roll, Log Cabin Roll, Pecan Apricot Mallow and Fudge. **\$1.29**

CHOCOLATE TING-A-LINGS—If you like molasses you will like this candy. Pure New Orleans molasses and fresh dairy butter go into the making of the most deliciously crisp filling, which is then covered with smooth chocolate. **59c**.

ASSORTED Dainties—Wholesome, delicious hard candies made from pure cane sugar in a variety of flavors and packed in a beautifully decorated hinged tin box. **60c**.

NURSERY ASSORTED CANDIES—Just the candies for the kiddies. Pure sugar, molasses, and pure fruit flavorings are the only ingredients used. Packed in a decorated tin box which will make a serviceable lunch box. **60c**.

HOME MADE ASSORTED FUDGE—The old fashioned creamy chafing dish kind. Made of pure creamy butter, cream, cane sugar, in vanilla and chocolate flavors. Both plain and with chopped walnuts. **60c**.

MILK CHOCOLATE PEPPERMINTS—These candies, always a favorite, have a cream center made of cane sugar and the best dairy butter and cream, flavored with peppermint and covered with fine milk chocolate. **75c**.

MILK CHOCOLATE CHERRIES—A delicious ripe maraschino cherry centered in pure sugar cream and heavily coated with chocolate makes this one of our most popular candies. **75c**.

OLD FASHIONED VANILLA CREAMS—This old fashioned candy, made in a new way of sugar cream, flavored with vanilla and covered with a coating of pure chocolate is one of our candy makers' many surprises for you. **59c**.

SUPREME BONBONS AND CHOCOLATES—A pleasing assortment of chocolate covered nougats, caramels, coconut, marshmallows and creams and truly delicious bonbons of various flavors. **1.00**.

CLUB CHOCOLATES—Fruits, nuts, caramels and cream centers. An assortment of fine chocolates which will satisfy every desire and meet any social requirement where only the finest candies would be appropriate. **80c**.

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